

# THOMAS, THOMAS (1880 - 1911), first British middle-weight boxing champion

Name: Thomas Thomas Date of birth: 1880 Date of death: 1911 Gender: Male

Occupation: first British middle-weight boxing champion

Area of activity: Sports and Leisure Pursuits

Author: Moelwyn Idwal Williams

Born 8 April 1880 at his mother's home in Glynarthen, Ceredigion, and brought up at Carncelyn Farm, Pen-y-graig, Rhondda, Glamorganshire. He started his boxing career in the hard way, touring in a boxing booth with Jim Driscoll and Freddie Welsh (F. H. Thomas). His main training took the form of bare-back horse-riding which he did over the mountains above Pen-y-graig, and it was in this way that he prepared for most of his contests. Thomas avoided the limelight and lived a detached life. He saved every penny of his ring earnings and even fought with a bull called 'Billy One-Horn,' thus saving himself the expense of paying for sparring partners.

After winning the heavy-weight championship of the Rhondda Valley, Thomas went to London and took part in a National Sporting Club middleweight competition which he won. Four more victories in London were gained in 1899. But his first important contest was in May 1906 when he met and defeated the Irishman Pat O'Keefe in what was virtually a championship contest. When the first Lonsdale Belt was put for the middle-weight class in 1909, Thomas was matched against Charlie Wilson, whom he defeated in two rounds, and thus became the first holder of the Lonsdale Belt in the middleweight class.

He died 13 August 1911 at Carncelyn from cardiac failure following pneumonia.

### **Author**

Dr Moelwyn Idwal Williams

### Sources

Boxing News world's premier fight weekly, 20 August 1947, 5

Western Mail, 14 August 1911, and 2 December 1949 (Former Welsh Boxing Champions, No. 11, by Tudor James)

### **Further Reading**

Death of Great Boxer, The Rhondda Leader, 19 August 1911, p.1

Funeral of Tom Thomas, The Rhondda Leader, 26 August 1911, p.6

Noted Boxer's Will, The Rhondda Leader, 28 October 1911, p.3

BoxRec: Tom Thomas

Wikipedia Article: Thomas Thomas (boxer)

## **Additional Links**

Wikidata: 07794427

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/







The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our sponsorship page



APA Citation



Williams, M. I., (1959). THOMAS, THOMAS (1880 - 1911), first British middle-weight boxing champion. Dictionary of Welsh Biography. Retrieved 9 Nov 2024, from https://biography.wales/article/s-THOM-THO-1880

Copy to Clipboard

rivacy & Cookies

Help Contact

# LGC NLW

# LLYFRGEL THE NATION





